

REMARKS

Overview

Claims 82-96, 139-150 and 155 currently stand allowed.

The Examiner also responded in the prior Office Action as follows: rejected claims 72-75, 97-115, 117-119, 121-138, 151-154, and 156-161 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by John Bates et al, "Middleware Support for Mobile Multimedia Applications"; and rejected claims 116, 120, 162, and 163 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bates et al in view of Schmidt et al, "There is more to context than location".

Applicants hereby amend claim 124 in order to clarify the subject matter of their invention, and further hereby add new claims 164-202. Thus, claims 72-75 and 82-202 are now pending.

Discussion

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter among the pending claims. In addition, new claims 164-193 depend from allowed independent method claim 155, and thus are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 155. Similarly, new independent system and computer-readable medium claims 198 and 194 each recite language similar to that of method claim 155, and thus claims 198 and 194 and their dependent claims are similarly believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 155.

Nonetheless, the Examiner has rejected each of the other previously pending claims as being unpatentable over Bates, either alone or in combination with Schmidt, but each of the pending claims as rejected includes features and provides functionality not disclosed by these references, and thus is allowable over these cited prior art references.

In particular, each of the previously pending claims of the current application generally recites that events of interest for clients or other external entities are automatically detected or identified, such as by monitoring activities, so that appropriate notifications can be supplied when such events occur. For example, independent computer-readable medium claim 124 as amended recites "the determining of the at least one type of occurrence that may be of interest

being performed automatically without having received any prior indications that those types of occurrences are of interest.” Similarly, independent method claim 97 recites “automatically analyzing received information related to at least one of the multiple state attributes in order to automatically determine at least one type of occurrence that may be of interest to at least one determined module.” The other independent claims include similar language.

Neither Bates nor Schmidt appears to include any teaching or suggestion to automatically determine events that may be of interest to an external entity, such as based on monitoring relevant activities or receiving information to assist in that automatic determination. Instead, Bates appears to describe a system in which a client application must explicitly register a request to receive notifications before any such notifications will be provided to the client application. For example, as explicitly noted by the Examiner, “Bates . . . describes the trader receives a request from a client application [that] . . . may include interest in receiving notification when a specified event . . . occurs”. (Office Action dated March 15, 2004, page 4, emphasis added, and generally described in section 2.5 of Bates.) Moreover, Bates stresses that it is this explicit registration by clients of events of interest that “enables scalable and flexible construction of active applications”. (Bates, page 5, 2nd paragraph of section 2.2.) Thus, not only does Bates not teach or suggest the claimed techniques for automatically determining events and/or occurrences of interest, Bates teaches away from such a technique by emphasizing that manual client registration for specific events is a critical aspect that enables the Bates system. Schmidt appears unrelated to any such client notifications, and thus does not remedy this failing of the Bates system.

In response to Applicants’ prior explanation of the above failings of the prior art, the Examiner responded in the prior Office Action dated September 23, 2005 as follows: “Bates teaches once Clients register interest in the set of occurrences they wish to be informed of, services (e.g., location services) notify (automatically) clients asynchronously if an occurrence matching the registration criteria is detected.” (Office Action dated September 23, 2005, page 15, emphasis added). Thus, the Examiner describes that, after a request is made by a client application to register a template corresponding to events of interest, the Bates system will automatically detect the occurrence of such matching events. However, even assuming that the Examiner’s interpretation of Bates is correct, such functionality to detect occurrences of events that have been explicitly registered is unrelated to Applicants’ claimed techniques for

automatically determining the types of occurrences that are to later be detected if they occur. For example, the Bates system may be able to detect and provide a notification when a particular user is in a particular location based on a client application's prior explicit request for that information, but fails to provide any capabilities to automatically determine that the client application might be interested in knowing that information about that location of that user and to automatically providing such notifications to the client application without having received such an explicit request for the notifications. Moreover, as noted above, not only does the prior art fail to teach or suggest Applicants' claimed techniques, Bates actually teaches away from Applicants' techniques by emphasizing that manual client registration for specific events is a critical aspect for the Bates system. Thus, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the currently pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

Thus, if the Examiner maintains his prior rejection in his next response, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate with specificity how the manual registration of events of interest in Bates can teach or suggest the recited claim language of, for example, claim 124 indicating that "the determining of the at least one type of occurrence that may be of interest [is] performed automatically without having received any prior indications that those types of occurrences are of interest".

The pending dependent claims include the features of those claims from which they depend, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as those claims. Furthermore, various pending dependent claims also recite additional features lacking in the cited references and are allowable on the basis of those features as well, although these additional features are not enumerated here for the sake of brevity.


Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this application and timely allow all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 694-4815.

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Reply to Office Action dated September 23, 2005

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment,
or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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